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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,375	11/25/2003	Keith W. Atkinson	IGT1P304/AC043	8007
22434	7590	04/24/2008	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER LLP			KIM, KEVIN Y	
P.O. BOX 70250				
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	
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			04/24/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/723,375	Applicant(s) ATKINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner KEVIN Y. KIM	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/5/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/5/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan et al (US 6,682,423 B2) in view of Garahi et al (US 2001/0041612 A1).

4. In re claim 1, Brosnan discloses a gaming network comprising:

a plurality of gaming machines (figure 1A);

one or more information servers coupled to the gaming machines, the one or more information servers structured to store data related to the plurality of gaming machines and related to players of the gaming machines, and to generate data for use on the gaming network (figure 1A, 71-74, column 6, lines 15-46);

a plurality of secure wireless devices structured to couple to the one or more information servers (figure 1A, 52d-g, column 10, lines 2-47);

a secure wireless receiver, other than the one or more information servers, structured to couple to at least one of the secure wireless devices (figure 1A, 52a-c, column 10, lines 2-47). While it is not explicitly disclosed that the connection of Brosnan is a secure data channel, it is well known in the art that wireless connections implemented by computer systems and machines must be secure, especially when communicating sensitive data such as the information being transferred in a casino. Such secure channels may be implemented in several ways:

- a password to access the wireless servers;

- MAC ID filtering;

- WEP and WPA encryption;

- WPA2 encryption;

- et al.

As the system of Brosnan implements a communication interface capable of wireless communication (for example, a wireless router/receiver such as one manufactured by Linksys implementing the 802.11g protocol), one skilled in the art would have the knowledge to secure the wireless data with one of the above methods, and thus, would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made, as it is a well known improvement in the art that yields a predictable result.

However, Brosnan is silent on the secure wireless devices being wireless servers structured to couple to the one or more information servers and being located in an area

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in which gaming machines are available for play. Garahi teaches a wagering interface in which an information server is utilized (figure 2, 104, 100, and 102). Coupled to this is a wireless server (116). The use of multiple servers is a well known feature in the art used to reduce the load of a single server. Furthermore, due to the nature of wireless signals, the wireless server must be in a location in which the devices are in range, else no devices would be able to make any kind of connection, Thus the server is in the gaming area to provide a strong, stable signal.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the wireless servers of Garahi in order to provide a convenient and wireless method of providing connectivity to players in the area.

5. In re claim 2, Brosnan discloses the at least one wireless server is structured to create a session with the secure wireless receiver, where the session is created when a player inserts a player tracking card that communicated with the game server to execute the functions of player tracking (column 19, lines 30-57). In other embodiments, a session is created when a gaming machine needs to be updated (column 20, lines 14-20). Garahi has been discussed regarding the use of a server with Brosnan.

6. In re claim 3, Brosnan discloses the session is limited in duration, as the session lasts only as long as the player plays the gaming machine (column 19, lines 30-57).

7. In re claim 5, Brosnan discloses a system for redeeming tickets comprising:
one or more information servers on a gaming network, the one or more information servers configured to store data related to past play of gaming machines and related to players of the gaming machines, and to generate data for use on the

gaming network (column 19, lines 30-58);

data stored on the one or more information servers relating to transactions previously memorialized by a ticket (column 18, lines 47-55).

Please refer to the discussion of claim 1 regarding the wireless server and receiver.

8. In re claim 6, Brosnan discloses a session detector, where the session detector is a card reader used to initiate a gaming session for a player (column 19, lines 30-45).

9. In re claim 7, Brosnan discloses the ticket identifier correctly identifies a previously memorialized transaction (column 18, lines 18-27).

10. In re claim 8, Brosnan discloses the information servers are configured to generate redemption data (column 18, lines 46-55).

11. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Acres et al (US 5,876,284).

12. In re claim 4, Brosnan has been discussed above, but is silent on establishing a session only during certain time periods. Acres teaches a bonus pool that is implemented during a particular time period (column 37, lines 43-56), where a bonus server operates said bonus pool. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the bonus pool at a particular period as disclosed by Acres in the machine of Brosnan in order to give the casino additional control over bonusing conditions.

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13. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosnan in view of Garahi as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Stern (US 6,110,044).

Brosnan and Garahi have been discussed above, but are silent on the redemption data including the date and time a ticket was redeemed. Stern teaches a ticket redemption system in which the date and time of a ticket's creation is printed on the ticket (figure 2). Furthermore, upon redemption, a record is stored containing data relating to it, including the date and time of redemption (column 9, lines 5-17). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the date and time system of Stern in order to prevent counterfeit duplicates of winning tickets from being redeemed.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEVIN Y. KIM whose telephone number is (571)270-3215. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternating Fridays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. Y. K./

Examiner, Art Unit 3714

/XUAN M. THAI/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3714